United Nations S/2009/557

# Security Council

Distr.: General
28 October 2009

Original: English

**Letter dated 28 October 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the United Kingdom in August 2009 (see annex).

The document was prepared under my responsibility, after consultation with the other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Philip **Parham**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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## Annex to the letter dated 28 October 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

## Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (August 2009)

### Introduction

Under the presidency of the United Kingdom in August 2009, the Security Council held 16 meetings, including two open debates, one private meeting, seven consultations, two briefings and one "informal informal". Three resolutions were adopted unanimously by the Council during the United Kingdom presidency.

### Africa

#### Sudan

On 20 August, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, briefed the Security Council on preparations for elections in the Sudan. During subsequent consultations of the whole, Council members expressed strong support for the elections, welcomed progress made thus far and called for efforts to be intensified, particularly by finding a solution on the census, the difficulties with which continued to obstruct progress. Council members requested further information from the United Nations Secretariat on the additional resources requested by the Secretary-General for the United Nations Mission in the Sudan.

#### Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 4 August, following a letter to the President of the Security Council from the Secretary-General dated 31 July 2009, the Council heard an update from the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Alain Le Roy. He briefed the Council on the fate of five officers of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo suspected of serious crimes of sexual violence, whose cases had been raised in May 2009 during the visit of members of the Council to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Sir John Sawers, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom, made some remarks to the press afterwards in his capacity as President of the Council, conveying the Council's appreciation for the sustained efforts of the Congolese authorities and the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in ensuring that the five officers were relieved of command, with two being detained and three under judicial control. He also stressed that it was crucial for members of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to be held accountable if they were involved in sexual violence, as part of wider efforts to combat such crimes.

## Asia

### Myanmar

On 11 August, the Council met to discuss the Myanmar issue following the verdict in the trial of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. On 13 August, the Council issued a statement to the press. It reaffirmed the Council's previous statements of 11 October 2007, 2 May 2008 and 22 May 2009; expressed serious concern at the conviction and sentencing of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi; and noted the decision by the Government of Myanmar to reduce the sentence. The Council also urged the Government to take further measures to create the necessary conditions to achieve an inclusive national reconciliation. It reiterated the Council's support for the Secretary-General's good offices, and affirmed the Council's commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Myanmar.

## Middle East

### Iraq

On 4 August, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Ad Melkert, briefed the Council on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1830 (2008) (S/2009/393). The Permanent Representative of Iraq, Ambassador Hamid al-Bayati, presented the views of the Government of Iraq. In subsequent consultations of the whole, Council members expressed full support for the continuing role in Iraq of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and agreed that work on the forthcoming elections, national reconciliation and humanitarian issues were key priorities.

On 7 August, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1883 (2009), by which it extended the mandate of UNAMI for a further period of 12 months, in accordance with the request of the Government of Iraq, and with reference to resolutions 1770 (2007) and 1830 (2008). The Council called on the Government of Iraq and other Member States to continue to provide security assistance and logistical support to the United Nations presence in the country. The Council requested the Secretary-General to report quarterly on progress made towards the fulfilment of all the Mission's responsibilities.

On 19 August, Security Council members issued a statement to the press condemning the terrorist attack on the same day in Baghdad.

On 27 August, the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, the Controller, Jun Yamazaki briefed the Council, in consultations of the whole, on the latest report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the International Advisory and Monitoring Board in overseeing the Development Fund for Iraq. Council members expressed concern that more steps needed to be taken to improve the system of internal controls of the Development Fund, and that the Government of Iraq should take greater responsibility for the management of its resources.

### The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 19 August, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, briefed the Council on the situation in the Middle East. During

subsequent consultations of the whole, Council members expressed strong support for international efforts aimed at a rapid resumption and conclusion of peace negotiations, which it was hoped would lead to comprehensive peace in the Middle East. They also stressed the need for Israelis and Palestinians to fulfil their road map obligations, including a complete freeze of settlement activity by Israel and an end to violence instigated by Palestinian militants. Council members expressed concern about the continuing humanitarian situation in Gaza. They called for implementation of resolution 1860 (2009), and for the opening of the Gaza crossing points within an appropriate monitoring framework.

### United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

On 13 August, the Council held a private meeting with the countries contributing troops to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), during which they were briefed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the activities of UNIFIL.

On 20 August, in consultations of the whole, the Assistant Secretary-General briefed the Council on the latest activities of UNIFIL. Council members expressed strong support for the important role that UNIFIL continues to play in contributing to peace and stability in southern Lebanon, underlined their concern over all violations of resolution 1701 (2006), including those described in the letter dated 6 August 2009 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2009/407), and agreed that all parties should fulfil their obligations under that resolution.

On 27 August, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1884 (2009), by which it extended the mandate of UNIFIL for a further period of 12 months, in accordance with the request of the Government of Lebanon and with reference to all its previous resolutions on Lebanon. In resolution 1884 (2009) the Council called on all parties to respect the cessation of hostilities, respect the Blue Line in its entirety, including through Ghajar, and to cooperate fully with UNIFIL. It called on all parties to work towards a permanent ceasefire and long-term solution. The Council requested the Secretary-General to report every four months on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006). Ambassador Gabriela Shalev, Permanent Representative of Israel, and Ambassador Nawaf Salam, Permanent Representative of Lebanon, made national statements.

### Afghanistan

On 20 August, Council members issued a statement to the press welcoming the holding of historic elections in Afghanistan, praising Afghan and international preparatory efforts, and calling for all involved to cooperate with the election authorities pending official results. On 26 August, Council members issued a statement to the press condemning the bomb attack in Kandahar on 25 August.

## Thematic debates and other issues

### Children and armed conflict

On 4 August, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1882 (2009) on children and armed conflict. By the resolution it expanded the criteria under which

armed groups can be included in annexes to the reports of the Security General on children and armed conflict, namely, those parties to armed conflict that engage, in contravention of applicable international law, in patterns of killing and maiming of children and/or rape or sexual violence committed against children. In addition, the Council asked the Secretary-General to provide dedicated administrative support to the Working Group.

**Peacekeeping**

On 5 August, the Council held an open debate on peacekeeping, attended by some 20 force and police commanders of United Nations peacekeeping missions.

The Under-Secretaries-General for Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support, Alain Le Roy and Susana Malcorra, briefed the Council on their non-paper entitled "A new partnership agenda: charting a new horizon for United Nations peacekeeping", the result of their joint review of the United Nations peacekeeping system. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations emphasized the need for a successful transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding and called for consensus on complex issues, including a robust approach to peacekeeping and the implementation of mandates for the protection of civilians. He reiterated the Secretariat's commitment to improving consultations with troop- and police-contributing countries, information-sharing with Council members and better monitoring and evaluation of missions. The Under-Secretary-General for Field Support introduced a field support strategy promising greater efficiency and shorter and more localized procurement, among other ideas to improve logistical support. Both reiterated the status of their work — as non-papers containing potential proposals intended to inspire greater dialogue among Member States. The Force Commander, of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), General Martin Luther Agwai, briefed the Council drawing on insights from his experience in the field, and emphasized that UNAMID had at its heart the full range of complex issues.

In the debate that followed there was a broad consensus among the Member States on issues concerning the United Nations peacekeeping mechanisms. Speakers supported measures to improve consultation with troop- and police-contributing countries, monitoring and evaluation of missions and the need for clear and achievable mandates. Participants underlined their wide support for the reform initiatives and looked forward to further discussion of the New Horizon project, including in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. Many supported efforts to improve the transition to peacebuilding.

Following the debate, the Council adopted a statement by the President of the Council (S/PRST/2009/24) in which it emphasized the central importance of a partnership drawing together the contributions and commitment of the entire United Nations system, and the importance of viewing a peacekeeping operation as an accompaniment, rather than an alternative, to a political strategy. The Council drew attention to recent endeavours to improve its contribution to the peacekeeping partnership, identifying several areas where further reflection is required to improve the preparation, planning, monitoring, evaluation and completion of peacekeeping operations. The Council committed itself to reviewing progress against these objectives again early in 2010.

**Women and peace and security**

On 7 August, the Council held an open debate on women and peace and security. The Secretary-General briefed the Council on his follow-up report (S/2009/362) to resolution 1820 (2008). He recalled the recommendations that were made to the Council in his report and underlined the importance of a multisectoral response to conflict-related sexual violence, and enhanced United Nations coordination in the field to prevent continued impunity of the perpetrators of such acts. He advised that an independent commission of inquiry should report to the Council in order to ensure accountability.

Twenty-nine non-members of the Council contributed to the debate; all spoke in favour of enhanced Security Council and United Nations activity to address the issue of gender-based sexual violence within armed conflict and peacebuilding zones.

**Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

On 20 August, Fazli Çorman (Turkey), in his capacity as Acting Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006), delivered the regular 90-day report on the Committee's work for the period up to 14 August. His report highlighted the adoption on 12 June of resolution 1874 (2009) and the new measures that resulted from it, including the designation on 16 July of additional entities, goods and individuals subject to sanctions; the agreement to continue to work to designate further goods and identify entities that are acting on behalf of or at the direction of previously designated entities; the adoption of a broad-ranging programme of work covering compliance, investigations, outreach and implementation assistance; the increasing number of reports from Member States on steps taken to implement the resolution; and the appointment on 12 August by the Secretary-General of the seven-strong Panel of Experts to support the Committee's work. He also noted that, after the report had been adopted, the Committee had received a letter from a Member State which reported a possible sanctions violation and requested advice on how to proceed. The Committee members were currently considering their response. He explained that it would be covered in detail in the next 90-day report.

Member States reaffirmed their support for full implementation of resolutions 1718 (2006) and 1874 (2009), underlined the need for the Committee to be active, especially in responding to alleged violations of the relevant measures, and stressed the goal of the return of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to peaceful dialogue leading to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

**Informal meeting with the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide**

On 25 August the United Kingdom organized an informal meeting of Security Council members, at which Council members heard an update from the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Prevention of Genocide, Francis Deng, on the work of his office.